

Claims

1. Device for gripping a flexible container, such as a bag (17) filled with fluid, comprising a chamber (15) that is open on one side (18) with a peripheral wall (2) that  
5 encloses the open side (18), a container support (8) that extends in the peripheral direction inside the peripheral wall (2), as well as an orifice (14) for connecting a vacuum source to the chamber (15), wherein the chamber (15) can be placed with the open side (18) against the container (17), such that a vacuum can be generated between the chamber (15) and the  
10 container (17) for bringing the container (17) into contact around the container support (8) transversely to the peripheral direction, characterised in that the orifice (14) is outside the container support (8) and extends in the peripheral direction.

2. Device according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral wall (2) has an inwardly  
15 directed flange (5) all round, on the inside edge (6) of which the container support (8) is located.

3. Device according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the container support (8), viewed in the direction transverse to the open side, is inside the peripheral wall (2).

20 4. Device according to Claim 2 and 3, wherein there is a ring (7) that overlaps the peripheral wall (2) on the inside edge (6) of the flange (5), the container support (8) being located on the free edge of which ring (7).

5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein, viewed in the direction  
25 transverse to the open side (18), the orifice (14) is closer to the open side (18) than the container support (8).

6. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein an auxiliary wall (9)  
30 extends in the peripheral direction inside the peripheral wall (2), which peripheral wall (2) and auxiliary wall (9) enclose a space (12) that on one side can be connected to the vacuum source and that on the other side determines the orifice (14).

7. Device according to Claim 6, wherein the auxiliary wall (9) has an auxiliary wall

section (11) oriented transversely to the open side (18).

8. Device according to Claim 7, wherein the auxiliary wall section (11) oriented transversely to the open side (18) extends beyond the container support (8) towards the open side (18).

9. Device according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein the auxiliary wall section (11) is a distance  $s$  away from the container support (8).

10. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the chamber (15) is delimited by a closed surface, such as a flat plate (1) on the side opposite the open side (18).

11. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the container support (8) has a circular cross-section.

12. Device according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the container (17) can be bent around the container support (8) through more than 180 degrees.